

and, as already indicated, has a much wider distribution. Under favourable conditions, it is an active flier about the eminences and summits of the mountains. The larval food-plant is *Selago* (Selaginaceae) and the later instars are undoubtedly passed in ants' nests, in which pupation will also occur. The writer captured specimens in company with Mr A. J. Duke on the date given for the latter's paratypes; and, recently, encountered them flying plentifully, when climbing the mountains with Mrs June Sipser, after whom this brilliant blue Lycaenid is named with much pleasure. A freshly-emerged female specimen was subsequently found, quite unexpectedly, on the same mountain range as late as 3rd March.

The earlier portion of the life-history of nominate *L. oreas* is described and figured in colour by Clark and Dickson in *Life Histories of the South African Lycaenid Butterflies* (1971, Cape Town).

"Blencathra", Cambridge Avenue,
St. Michael's Estate, Cape Town.

PLATE V

Genitalia of *Lepidochrysops*

Fig. 1. ♂ Genitalia, *Lepidochrysops oreas oreas* Tite (Table Mountain, Cape Town).

Fig. 2. ♂ Genitalia, *L. oreas junae* subsp. nov. (Klein Drakenstein Mtns., C.P.).

Fig. 3. ♂ Genitalia, *L. quickelbergei* Swanepoel (Gydo Mtn., C.P.).

Each set of figures, represents: basic portion of structure, with valves and aedeagus removed; valves and juxta (fully compressed); and aedeagus (fully compressed).

Figures approximately 23.6 times natural size.

Photo: H. N. Wykeham.

Lycaena dispar rutila Werneberg: A Chance Meeting at Ravenna, Italy

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Driving past the oil refinery on 24th August 1973, one could not help but gaze in awe at the flames belching from the tops of several tall chimneys. The smell of industry almost made one choke. The river appeared to be dirty and polluted at this point but I thought to myself that perhaps higher upriver it would still be fairly clean.

We continued driving a short way past areas of sugar beet, vines and fruit trees until at last we came to our destination and turned off the road.

The particular orchards we were visiting receive large numbers of fungicide and insecticide sprays each year and are situated in a vast agricultural area. We could detect the smell

of chemical pesticides everywhere in the orchards.

Having completed our inspection, my colleagues were discussing something while I followed them slowly back to the car.

I had noticed the ditch running alongside the pathway when we drove into the orchard. It was situated more or less in the centre of this enormous area of apple, pear and peach trees.

"What are those flowers I can see? I will just have a quick look. Yes, they are a mint species, perhaps peppermint. Wait! What on earth was that flash of red? There it is again. My god, it's a male *dispar*. Fantastic, and there's another. What a find!"

How extraordinary it was that the first time I should ever see this species alive was not in a wild unspoilt area but in an intensely agricultural and industrial area.

My colleagues were engrossed in their discussion so I quickly proceeded along the ditch. There were many clumps of mint with *dispar* of both sexes feeding at the flowers. In all there were approximately fifty butterflies in this small stretch of ditch.

I decided to examine the butterflies more closely and stretched out alongside a clump of mint hardly disturbing them.

I thought what a pity it was I had not got a net with me. I decided that I must attempt to obtain a specimen as proof to my friends and as a rarity for my collection. How easy it was. With thumb and forefinger I picked up a fine female and killed it instantly with a pinch to the thorax. In five minutes I had two perfect pairs and proceeded back to the car where my colleagues were waiting for me.

I left them in blissful ignorance of my excitement and on the way back to the city I relaxed in the deep comfortable car seat and contemplated on how unexpected and unusual life can be. Within five minutes of leaving the site we were in a traffic jam and surrounded by the noise and bustle of civilisation.

Some Lepidoptera in Radnorshire, 1973

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While on holiday in Radnorshire I took the opportunity of making a small collection of Lepidoptera on the nights of 22nd, 23rd and 24th August. The base was a country hotel at Pencerrig, two miles north of Builth Wells and five miles south of Llandrindod Wells, on the A483, and I restricted my collecting to the immediate area of the hotel grounds. On two nights I